

Document: REIWG 39-023
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Meeting: Jakarta, Indonesia

Meeting Document Summary Sheet

Document Title:

South Pacific Undersea Cable: a new digital bridge connecting Asia and South America

Purpose:

For consideration

Issue:

Workshop on digital connectivity in the APEC region

Background:

One of the priorities of the Regional Economic Integration Working Group is to promote the development of critical infrastructure that contributes to enhance digital connectivity within the region. In this matter, ABAC Chile held a workshop about the construction of a fiber optic underwater cable that links South America and Asia to enhance digital connectivity in the APEC region.

What was primarily discussed in the workshop was that there is a “missing link” in terms of digital connectivity between Asia and Latin America. The construction of a fiber optic underwater cable stands out as a landmark project to foster connectivity in the Asia Pacific region.

The project has the potential to transform Chile into a digital hub providing services to Brazil, Argentina, Peru and other countries in the South American region. This project would favor the installation of world class data centers in Latin America, which would speed up and increase digital transit to other countries in the Southern Cone, favoring new business opportunities.

This project would be helpful in order to put in place critical infrastructure for the development of more specific digital technologies such as the 5G network.

Proposal / Recommendations:

- Take note of what was discussed in the workshop about deploying a fiber optic underwater cable linking South America and Asia.

South Pacific Undersea Cable: a new digital bridge connecting Asia and South America

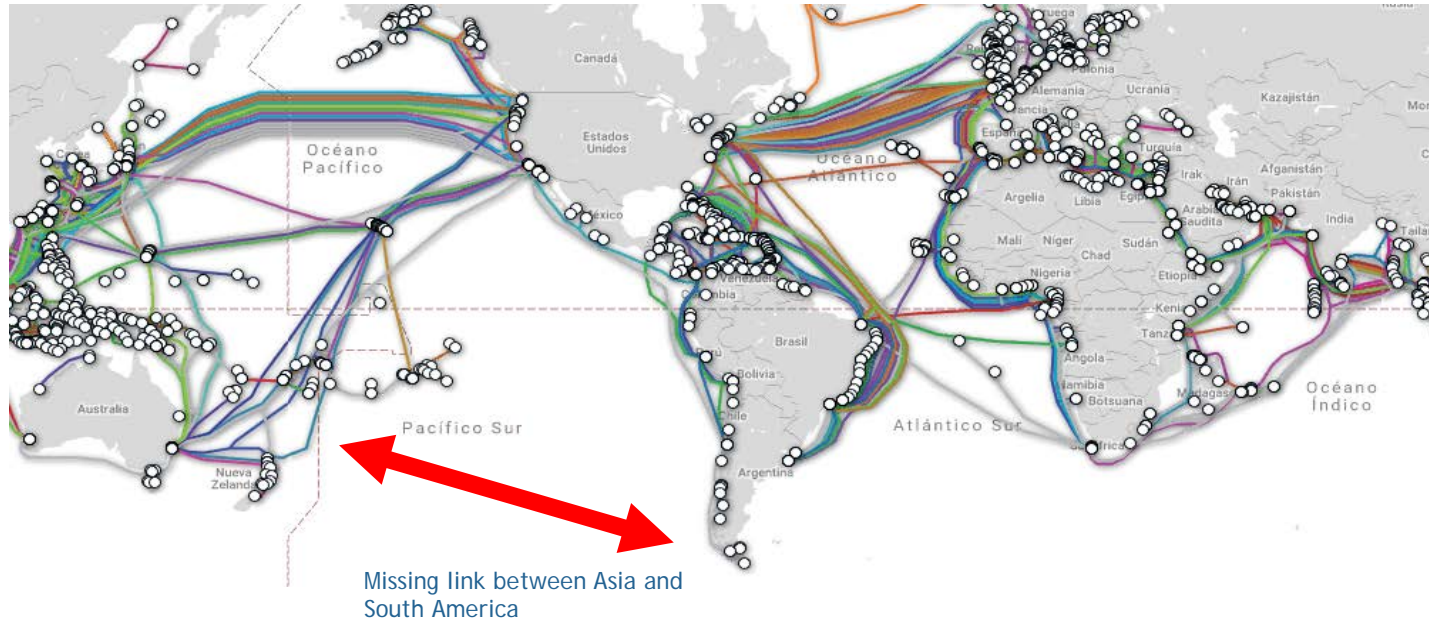
Richard von Appen
ABAC Chile



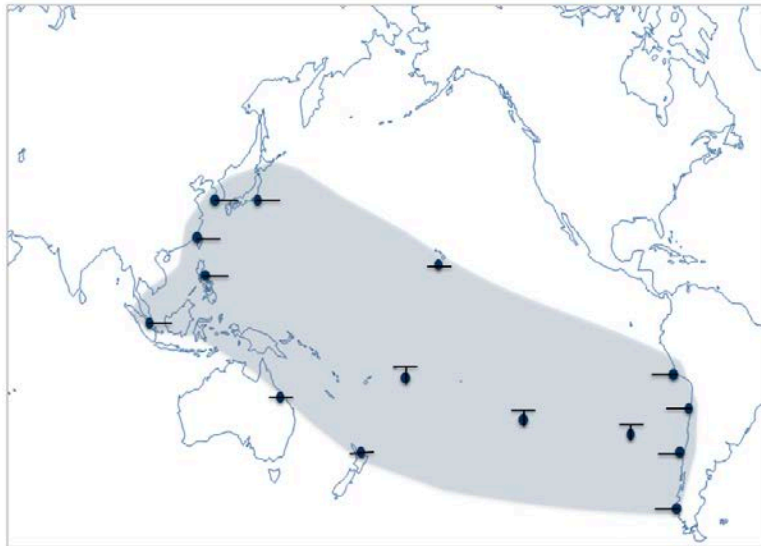
A case of connectivity in the 21st Century

- ▶ 85% of the data traffic of Latin America takes place mainly through cables running all the way to North America
- ▶ Fiber optic cables are needed for the **development of critical infrastructure** (e.g. 5G)
- ▶ Missing link between Asia and South America:
 - ▶ A fiber-optic underwater cable is a landmark for **connectivity** in the Asia-Pacific región
 - ▶ Potential for Chile to become a digital hub providing services to Brazil, Argentina, Peru and other countries in the South American region
 - ▶ Main potential gains associated to world class datacenters deployment and digital transit to other countries in the Southern Cone

A case of connectivity in the 21st Century



South Pacific Undersea Cable Project: a case for regional integration in Asia Pacific



Route Alternatives (preliminary):

Origin	Intermediate	Branches	Landing point
China, Japan, Korea & Singapore	New Zealand, Australia & Hawaii	Rapa Nui, J. Fernández & French Polynesia	Valparaiso, Arica, Punta Arenas, branch to Lima

- Increased availability offer of international connectivity and redundancy (backup facility) for routes through the South Pacific
- Other interested countries: China, Japan, French Polynesia, New Zealand and Singapore.
- Investment: USD 500-600 million

Project schedule

